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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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EXAMINER  
GUSHI, R

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER  
2833

DATE MAILED: 01/28/99

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

# Office Action Summary

Application No.  
09/919,947

Applicant(s)

Richardson

Examiner

Gushi, Ross

Group Art Unit

2833



- ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ This action is **FINAL**.
- ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 1 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

## Disposition of Claims

- ☒ Claim(s) 1-80 is/are pending in the application.
- Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- ☒ Claims 1-80 are subject to restriction or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- ☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- ☐ All ☐ Some\* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
- ☐ received.
- ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\*Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

## Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

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## DETAILED ACTION

### *Election/Restriction*

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
  - a. Claims 1-11 and 26 drawn to a lamp assembly, comprising a lamp, and a subcombination contact protector.
  - b. Claims 12 - 14, drawn to a lamp assembly with a subcombination contact protector and further comprising a subcombination pin extender.
  - c. Claims 15 - 25, drawn to a lamp combination comprising a lamp, a subcombination contact protector, and a subcombination contact protector holder.
  - d. Claim 26, drawn to a lamp assembly comprising a lamp and an insulator.
  - e. Claims 27-33 and 37-39 drawn to a combination circuit for lighting a lamp, comprising a subcombination electronic ballast, a subcombination lamp socket, a subcombination electrical conductor, and a subcombination junction.
  - f. Claim 34, drawn to a combination circuit for lighting a lamp, comprising a subcombination electronic ballast, a subcombination lamp socket, a subcombination electrical conductor, a subcombination junction, and a subcombination refrigerator display case.
  - g. Claim 35, drawn to a combination circuit for lighting a lamp, comprising a subcombination electronic ballast, a subcombination lamp socket, a

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- subcombination electrical conductor, a subcombination junction, a subcombination refrigerator display case, and a subcombination lamp.
- h. Claim 36, drawn to a combination circuit for lighting a lamp, comprising a subcombination electronic ballast, a subcombination lamp socket, a subcombination electrical conductor, a subcombination junction, and a subcombination of conductors for supplying electricity to the lamp sockets.
- i. Claim 40, drawn to the circuit of claim 39, and further comprising a conductor crimped to each contact.
- j. Claim 41, drawn to a circuit comprising a ballast, a lamp connector with lamp contacts, a lamp, a conductor for coupling the ballast to the socket, and a connector between the conductor and socket.
- k. Claim 42 and 43, drawn to the circuit of Claim 41, and where the contacts and lamp are further specified.
- l. Claim 44, drawn to a combination ballast and lighting circuit, comprising various subcombinations, each of which have separate utility.
- m. Claims 45 - 50, 54-58, 63-64 drawn to a connector for connecting contacts of a florescent light to a light source.
- n. Claim 51, drawn the connector of claim 51, and where mating conductors are surrounded by plastic (where the mating conductors have a separate utility).

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- o. Claim 52, drawn to the conductor of claim 45, where the conductor is formed from copper (the conductor having a separate utility).
  - p. Claim 53, drawn to the connector of claim 52, further specifying the junction (the junction having a separate utility).
  - q. Claim 59, drawn to the conductor of claim 58, and where the output conductor is formed from gold plated bronze (the output having a separate utility).
  - r. Claim 60-61, drawn to the connector of claim 45, and further comprising a contact protector.
  - s. Claim 65, drawn to the connector of claim 45, and further comprising a second output conductor.
  - t. Claim 66, drawn to the connector of claim 45, and further comprising a second, third and fourth output conductors.
  - u. Claim 67, drawn to a connector comprising an input circuit, a connector body, a first output contact, and a second output contact.
  - v. Claims 68-76, 77-80 drawn to a conductor comprising an input circuit, a connector body, a first and second output contacts, and a nonconductive barrier.
  - w. Claim 77, drawn to the connector of claim 68 and further comprising third and fourth output contacts.
2. The various inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

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a. Some of the inventions are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combinations as claimed do not require the particulars of the subcombinations as claimed. For example, the subcombinations of a lamp, a contact protector, a lamp socket, a contact protector holder, a pin extension, an electronic ballast, a refrigerator display case frame all have separate independent utilities from the utilities of the various combinations.

b. Some of the inventions are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, many of the subcombinations have separate utility. For instance, a lamp, a lamp socket, a contact protector, a pin extension, an electronic ballast, and a refrigerator display case frame each are separately useable. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

c. Some of the inventions are independent combinations. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). For instance, the lamp assembly of claim 1 is a combination which is completely independent and distinct from a circuit for lighting a lamp, per claim 27 (note that the claim for a circuit for lighting a lamp does not include a lamp).

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d. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classifications and divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

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Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ross Gushi whose telephone number is (703) 306-4508.

  
**Hien Vu**  
Primary Examiner

rng

January 14, 1999